

## **2001 Census of Tribal Justice Agencies in Indian Country**

Attached is a draft survey instrument for the *2001 Census of Tribal Justice Agencies in Indian Country* scheduled for fieldwork later this year. We would appreciate it if you would review the survey and provide us your comments. Your comments and suggestions will be reviewed and fully considered along with other suggestions received as part of our review of the survey's questionnaire. Please direct your comments or questions to [askbjs@ojp.usdoj.gov](mailto:askbjs@ojp.usdoj.gov) with the phrase "Tribal Justice Survey" in the subject line.

The survey is the first comprehensive effort by the Justice Department to document tribal justice agencies, the services they provide, and the capacity among American Indian tribes and Alaska Native villages to collect and report information on crime in their jurisdictions. The survey will identify the tribal justice forums (traditional and non-traditional) used for resolving disputes, law enforcement agencies, record keeping, and crime reporting practices. To encourage a high response rate, we have minimized the length of the survey, the complexity of the questions, and overall information gathering required to complete the survey.

We look forward to your comments and suggestions. Again, thank you for your interest in the survey.

**RETURN  
TO****2001 Census of Tribal Justice  
Agencies In Indian Country****DRAFT****INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY**

Name			Title		
TELEPHONE	Area code	Number	FAX	Area code	Number
E-MAIL ADDRESS					

On behalf of the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), U.S. Department of Justice, the xxxxxxxxxxxxxx is conducting a census of tribal justice agencies in Indian Country. This is the first comprehensive effort by the Justice Department to document justice agencies operating in Indian Country, the services they provide, and the capacity among American Indian and Native Alaskan tribes to collect and report information on crime in their jurisdictions. Findings from the 2001 survey will be sent to all respondents and will be available from the BJS website at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs>. BJS also will compile and make available a National directory of justice agencies in Indian Country.

We estimate that it will take an average of 20 minutes to complete the survey, including time to review instructions, to gather the information needed, and to enter and review the information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate, or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions on how to reduce this burden, to the Director, Bureau of Justice Statistics, 810 Seventh Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20531.

The Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, as amended (42 U.S.C. 3732), authorizes this information collection. The request for information is in accordance with the clearance requirement of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, as amended (44 U.S.C. 3507). Although this survey is voluntary, we urgently need and appreciate your cooperation to make the results comprehensive, accurate, and timely.

Please complete the survey within 14 days and return it in the enclosed envelope or fax the survey to XXXX at XXX-XXX-XXXX. If you have questions or need assistance, please e-mail XXXX at XXXX@XXXXXXXXXXXX or call X-XXX-XXX-XXXX. Thank you for your cooperation in this important data collection effort.

Sincerely,  
XXXXXX XXXXXXXXXX

**General Information**

- If you need assistance to answer any question or have questions about the survey, please call XXXXX at XXXXXXXXXX. You may also e-mail XXXXX at XXX@XXXXXX.XXX.
- Please complete the survey within 14 days and mail to XXXXX in the pre-addressed, pre-paid envelope provided or fax to XXXXX at XXX-XXX-XXXX, ATTN: XXXXX---Census of Justice Agencies in Indian Country project.

While you are not required to respond to this survey,  
your participation is greatly appreciated and is critical for the success of the survey.

## SECTION A –TRIBAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

**A1. Does your tribe have a law enforcement agency employing sworn personnel with general arrest powers?**

- 1 ☐ Yes  
2 ☐ No → SKIP TO SECTION B

**A2. Does your tribal law enforcement agency have cross deputization agreements with any of the following?**  
(Mark (X) all that apply)

- a. ☐ BIA law enforcement  
b. ☐ Neighboring tribes/villages  
c. ☐ Neighboring *non*-tribal authorities  
(e.g. state, county, local)

**A3. Do your tribal law enforcement officers have jurisdiction over tribal members off the reservation?**

- 1 ☐ Yes  
2 ☐ No

**A4. Do your tribal law enforcement officers have authority over *non*-tribal member Indians on the reservation?**

- 1 ☐ Yes  
2 ☐ No

## SECTION B –TRIBAL COURTS AND SERVICES

**B1. Does your tribe have a formal tribal court system, similar to the state or Federal court system, for resolving legal disputes?**

- 1 ☐ Yes  
2 ☐ No → SKIP TO SECTION C

**B2. Is your tribal court system inter-tribal, shared among two or more tribes?**

- 1 ☐ Yes  
2 ☐ No

**B3. Which of the following types of cases are handled by your tribal court system?**

(Mark (X) all that apply)

- a. ☐ Criminal misdemeanor cases  
b. ☐ Traffic violations  
c. ☐ Juvenile matters  
d. ☐ Domestic violence cases  
e. ☐ Civil matters  
f. ☐ Other cases (*describe below*)

**B4. Please indicate the type and number of courts in your formal tribal court system.**

(Mark (X) all that apply)

### Type of court

- a. ☐ General jurisdiction trial court →  
b. ☐ Juvenile court →  
c. ☐ Family court →  
d. ☐ Hunting and fishing court →  
e. ☐ Appellate court →  
f. ☐ Other (*Describe below*)

### B6. Number of courts

- a. \_\_\_\_\_  
b. \_\_\_\_\_  
c. \_\_\_\_\_  
d. \_\_\_\_\_  
e. \_\_\_\_\_

**B5. Does your tribal court system use any of the following intermediate sanctions in sentences?**

Consider "intermediate sanctions" as sentences other than incarceration or probation

(Mark (X) all that apply)

- a. ☐ Drug rehabilitation  
b. ☐ Alcohol rehabilitation  
c. ☐ Community service  
d. ☐ Counseling / therapy  
e. ☐ Fine without incarceration  
f. ☐ Restitution without incarceration  
g. ☐ Victim-Offender reconciliation  
h. ☐ Other (*Describe below*)

**B6. Which types and how many of the following personnel work in your tribal court system?**

(Mark (X) all that apply)

Type of Court Personnel	Tribal Court System	
	B7. Number Full-time	B8. Number Part-time
a. <input type="checkbox"/> Trial court judges	a. _____	_____
b. <input type="checkbox"/> Appellate court judges	b. _____	_____
c. <input type="checkbox"/> Court administrators	c. _____	_____
d. <input type="checkbox"/> Court interpreters	d. _____	_____
e. <input type="checkbox"/> Prosecutors	e. _____	_____
f. <input type="checkbox"/> Tribal public defenders	f. _____	_____
g. <input type="checkbox"/> Investigators	g. _____	_____
h. <input type="checkbox"/> Probation officers	h. _____	_____
i. <input type="checkbox"/> Parole officers	i. _____	_____
j. <input type="checkbox"/> Support and other staff	j. _____	_____
<b>TOTAL STAFF</b>	k. _____	_____

**B9. How are tribal court judges selected?**

(Mark (X) all that apply)

- a. ☐ Elected  
 b. ☐ Appointed or hired  
 c. ☐ Other (Describe below)

**B10. Are jury trials conducted in your tribal court system?**

- 1 ☐ Yes  
 2 ☐ No

**B11. How are criminal cases counted in your court system?**

(Mark (X) only one)

- a. ☐ Number of charges  
 b. ☐ Number of defendants  
 c. ☐ Number of incidents  
 d. ☐ Other

**B13. How many CRIMINAL cases were filed in your court system during the past year?**

➡ \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Mark (x) if number is an estimate

**B14. How many CIVIL cases were filed in your court system during the past year?**

➡ \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Mark (x) if number is an estimate

### SECTION C —TRADITIONAL TRIBAL JUSTICE FORUMS

**C1. Does your tribe have a traditional tribal justice forum for resolving disputes?**

- 1 ☐ Yes  
 2 ☐ No ➡ SKIP TO SECTION D

**C2. Which type(s) of traditional justice forum(s) or practices are used for resolving disputes?**

(Mark (X) all that apply)

- a. ☐ Tribal council  
 b. ☐ Consultation with elders  
 c. ☐ Peacemaking  
 d. ☐ Sentencing circles  
 e. ☐ Other (Describe below)

## SECTION D – TRIBAL JUSTICE RECORD KEEPING PRACTICES AND CRIME REPORTING

**D1. Does your tribe record the number and types of crime incidents occurring in your tribal jurisdiction?**

- 1 ☐ Yes  
2 ☐ No → SKIP TO D4

**D2. What method do you use to record crime incidents in your tribal jurisdiction?**

(Mark (X) only one)

- a. ☐ Incidents are recorded manually  
b. ☐ Incidents are recorded in computer databases  
c. ☐ Other (Describe below)

**D3. Does your tribe routinely share crime statistics with any of the following?**

(Mark (X) all that apply)

- a. ☐ Other tribes  
b. ☐ Local government  
c. ☐ State government  
d. ☐ FBI (Uniform Crime Reports)  
e. ☐ BIA

**D4. Does your tribe participate in the National Crime Information Center (NCIC)?**

- 1 ☐ Yes  
2 ☐ No

**D5. Does your tribe record the number of matters brought before your tribal court or tribal justice forum(s)?**

*Forums include tribal court, tribal counsel, consultation with elders and other traditional methods of dispute resolution.*

- 1 ☐ Yes  
2 ☐ No

**D6. What method is used to record matters in your tribal court or tribal justice forum(s)?**

(Mark (X) only one)

- a. ☐ Matters are recorded manually  
b. ☐ Matters are recorded in computer databases  
c. ☐ Other (Describe below)

**D5. Does your tribe have a Tribal Research Board?**

- 1 ☐ Yes  
2 ☐ No

**Comments**

**Thank you for your participation and prompt reply.**